

February 2021

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Newsletter



Opening hours: Every Sunday 10am – 2pm
Or by appointment.

238 Mudgeeraba Road, Mudgeeraba
(Mudgeeraba Heritage Centre)

PO Box 1233, Mudgeeraba, Qld 4213
PH: 07 5559 1457

Email: info.gchhmuseum@gmail.com

Web: <http://gchheritagemuseum.org.au/>

Committee formed June 2001; Incorporated November 2001;
Dedication and official opening 9 October 2004

President's Patter

Hello everyone

Welcome to 2021. Hopefully we can have a much more normal year than we did in 2020. 2021 started with a bang from the Albert Battery on Australia Day. It was not too hot this year as in previous years. We have had interest from schools again and they have begun booking tours of the museum for their students. We are open on Sundays from 10am-2pm and look forward to your visit.

Joan

We are on Facebook and Instagram -
GC Hinterland Heritage Museum - please like us
and spread the word.

Due to the rising cost of postage = it has now gone up top \$1.10 - we would like to be able to email the newsletter to as many of our friends as possible. I know there are some of you who do not have email etc and that is fine. You will still get your newsletter as per usual. **If you receive our newsletter through the post but have an email address could you please send an email to info.gchhmuseum@gmail.com and I will add you to the email list to receive the newsletter. Many thanks.**

Australia Day 2021
Photographer: Peter Jones







Tribute to Col Boundy aka The Singing Swagman

Late on the 2nd July 2020, Col Boundy's second son announced publicly: *Unfortunately, the old Swaggie could not roll out of his swag this evening and passed away peacefully with a couple of his daughters in attendance. He was able to go out on his own terms, something to be thankful for...* 😊

William James Colin Boundy (mostly known as Col) was born in August 1929 on the Atherton Tablelands, the second son of dairy farmers, Richard Boundy and his wife May. Col and his siblings went to a 'one teacher' primary school at Butchers Creek. His mother and her sisters were among the first pupils at the school. Col, his brothers and cousins were honoured guests at the school's centenary in 2013.

Col's interest in music began at Thornburgh College in Charters Towers where he learnt the violin. Unfortunately, violin lessons ended when his teacher found he was playing from memory not the sheet music. His father taught him to play the button accordion, which he played for pleasure, church services and youth groups and in his role as *The Singing Swagman*. He played his 'squeeze box' publicly for the last time in late 2015.

Col met 'the Missus', Clarice when her parents bought his Granny's farm. They married in 1949 and had 8 children and many adventures during their 66 years together.

As children, Col and his siblings all worked on the family arm. At 16, he started work in the timber industry – clearing scrub and at a sawmill. Over the years, he studied bookkeeping and accountancy, and for refrigeration and steam tickets. He worked as a labourer, in offices and sales positions, warehouses, factories and powerhouses, and as an Assistant Nurse at Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital. Col and Clarice also owned 3 businesses: an unofficial Post Office and Telephone Exchange on the Atherton Tableland in the early 1950s; Bill's Bazaar, a second-hand clothing store that travelled to country towns (1969-71) and *The Singing Swagman* entertainment business, which operated from 1984 to just before Col turned 80 in 2009. Most dear to his heart, were his years as a Minister and as *The Singing Swagman*.

From mid 1956, Col was the Presbyterian Minister at Springsure and then Monto. From 1962 – 66 he worked in Baptist Churches and missions in

Brisbane, Hobart, Rockhampton and Alice Springs. In mid-life he achieved his dream of studying at the Baptist Theological College and graduated with a Diploma in Theology. He was the pastor at Dinmore and then Minden Baptist Church until December 1984, when *The Singing Swagman* went full time.

Col would tell anyone who'd listen that he got the idea for *The Singing Swagman* in 1983, when his granddaughter Kate announced that the Swaggie in the mural at the Preschool 'looked just like Pa'. Clarice quickly put together a costume and Col made his first appearance as a swagman at the preschool's Queensland Day celebrations.

After researching swagmen, Col developed a school show and for 25 years travelled in Australia and overseas doing school & kindy shows, Christmas shows, busking, fetes, festivals, tourist promotions at home and overseas, shopping centres, private parties and more. During the school year Col and Clarice lived in a camper and did 3 school shows / day. Starting in Canberra in February they went north to Townsville by mid-year, then headed south to complete the year around Brisbane, Gold Coast, Toowoomba and Sunshine Coast.

The Singing Swagman was a well-known busker in Brisbane's Queen Street Mall, Civic Mall in Canberra and in many malls and markets in Northern NSW and Queensland. Col entertained at Residential Care facilities and at many other venues: *Dreamworld*, *The Ekka* and rural shows, markets, festivals and special events – including Brisbane's 1984 Olympic bid in Switzerland, *Expo 88* and a visit to Japan with the Mayor of Rockhampton.

Col and Clarice (who created and cared for their costumes and props) developed a Pioneer Tent show that they took to festivals in Australia and to Houston Texas. The tent, which is a replica of one that was in use in the Gold Coast Hinterland in 1910, is now on permanent display at *The Gold Coast Hinterland Heritage Museum* at Mudgeeraba.

As *The Singing Swagman*, Col made two audio-tapes of his music and sold thousands of cassettes (and later CDs) and postcards to people all over the world.

Col retired as *The Singing Swagman* in March 2009, six months before his 80th birthday. After his retirement he continued to visit the *Gold Coast*

Hinterland Heritage Museum for Australia Day, Seniors' Week celebrations and some school visits. He gave his 5-year-old granddaughter from London an in depth tour of the museum in July 2016.



Col had always been 'chief cook and bottle washer' at home and was a keen handyman and gardener. He loved watching sport, reading the paper and doing his exercises. In the 1970s he wrote a series of children's stories called *The Adventures of Freddie Field Mouse*. In later years he researched, wrote and self-published two books: *A Boy's Eye View of the 30s & 40s Growing up on the Atherton Tableland North Queensland between 1929 and 1949*, and *The Boundys*, which tracks his paternal family from Cornwall to NSW & to the Atherton Tableland. He also prepared scripts and promotional materials for *the Singing Swagman* business, including a publication about the Pioneer Tent and Campsite.

Col was a truly remarkable man. He was wise, kind, clever, funny, cheeky, thoughtful, resourceful, entertaining, versatile, memorable and generous. He was a classic workaholic, a leader, counsellor and mentor, a lifelong learner, an inventive problem-solver, a keen researcher, author and storyteller. Col was proud that he'd been Clarice's carer 24/7 from 2010 until she died in 2016. Most of all Col believed he'd had a great life full of opportunities and he'd loved every minute of it!

As the end of his journey drew closed and life became more difficult, he would sing 'Count Your Blessings'. On a really tough day, it was 'When the Roll is Called Up Yonder I'll be There'. When the final call came, the end for this energetic, one-of-a-kind man, was quick and gently. With his favourite music playing, surrounded by love, he slipped peacefully from us.

In closing, our family would like to thank *The Gold Coast Hinterland Heritage Museum* for hosting the permanent display of Col and Clarice's Pioneer Tent and Campsite and for the support, encouragement and friendship they received at the Museum over the years.

Melda Boundy on behalf of Col and Clarice's Family, Jan 2021.



Nerang School of Arts / Nerang Community Hall

<https://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/documents/bf/gc-local-heritage-register-n-z.pdf>

Also known as the Nerang Community Hall located at 34 Price Street, Nerang. The Nerang Hall, built circa 1888, as a community building demonstrates a function that has been important in the development of the Nerang community. For more than 120 years, the Nerang Hall has fulfilled an important cultural, educational and social role for the district.

Originally, the Hall was a simple timber building with a prominent position in the main street of Nerang. Despite modification to adapt the building to changing community needs, the hall retains its position and special association with the community as a place that is accessible, regularly used and valued by the community. Although some of the activities undertaken in the hall may have changed over time, the original purpose and function of the hall remains unchanged since its construction.

<http://www.goldcoaststories.com.au/nerang-school-of-arts-and-mechanics-institute/>

Prior to the 1880s, Thomasine Browne and her husband Captain Walter Browne had offered their home for social events and small concerts in Nerang but there was a desire for a venue that could accommodate the larger number of people settling in the surrounding area.

To provide the community with a public venue, B. Cockerill of the Royal Mail Hotel built a hall on land that would later be known as Bischoff Park. Called Tobin's Music Hall, after Cockerill's licensee, it was constructed prior to February 1880 and offered a place for public meetings, magic lantern shows and general entertainment.

In 1884 the residents of the Nerang district, including Thomasine Browne, Mr and Mrs Cooper and William Philpott, organised a fund raising concert in aid of the Cricket Club. The public concert, with performers from the surrounding area, was held on 10 May 1884 in Tobin's Music Hall and was a success. The concerts continued to held every few months for the benefit of community organisations that required funds. The small music hall, which was destroyed in a cyclone, was the foundation of the School of Arts and Mechanics Institute in Nerang.

In 1886 a meeting was held to discuss the establishment of a School of Arts and Mechanics' Institute and money was collected to build a hall further west of the flood area in Ferry Street. The building was opened in 1888 with a bazaar, maypole dancing and a concert. The library had over 400 books, with residents giving many valuable volumes, and the reading room had daily and weekly newspapers and periodicals. Thomasine Browne was elected a life member of the Nerang School of Arts to honour her involvement in establishing the hall.

On 16 September 1929 a public meeting was held in the Nerang School of Arts and Mechanics' Institute to decide whether the building should move from its position on Allotment 1 of Section 18, at the corner of Ferry and Cotton Streets to land gifted by Mr W. H. Spencer, long-time president of the School of the Arts, on Allotment 9 of Section 7 situated in Price Street, Nerang.

The hall was moved by truck to the new site by the MacKenzie brothers and the extended and renovated building was officially opened by Mr T F Plunkett, MLA, on Friday 25 September 1931.

Renamed the Nerang Community Hall, the building remains an important part of the Nerang streetscape. It continues to have strong social significance for the Nerang community and those organisations and clubs that use the building more than 100 years after it was first considered.



Nerang School of Arts, circa 1946. Image from Longhurst, R., 1994, Nerang Shire; A history to 1949, The Albert Shire Council. p.203.



Price Street, Nerang.

Intersection with Lavelle Street; Star Hotel, double storey building on left in the middle ground; 2nd building which is just visible is the Royal Mail Hotel; The first building on the left was used as a shop; furthest building on the right side of Price street, (just visible) is Healy's saddlery; the next building (just visible) is the Police Station; Large building beside Police Station is a general store. [Image courtesy of City of Gold Coast Local Studies Library]

Management Committee 2021

Joan Rudd [President], Anne Panitz [Secretary]. Sue Mills [Treasurer, Registrar, Newsletter] Jack Rudd, Brian Cox, George O'Brien, Lenore Crouch, Mariette Buckingham, Neil Sands, Pam Sands, Peter Jones, Carol Jones, Warren Davis, Tom Cowper.

Meetings held 3rd Sunday of each month on site.

Our aim is to collect and preserve historical and heritage material illustrating the growth and development of the Hinterland Region of the Gold Coast from the original pioneering days until today. We plan to arrange and describe these materials and make them accessible to the general public on a regular basis as well as providing educational programs where possible to increase public awareness and appreciation of the Gold Coast Hinterland region's history and development. Members of the Management Committee have connections with pioneering families in the district.

"Friends of the Museum" is for anyone who shares our same interest in preserving the history of our region and is interested in assisting with the set-up and operation of the museum. Further details on the 'Friends' and application form may be obtained from the secretary.

Diary Dates - subject to change without notice

February 2021

- 7 – Museum open 10am – 2pm
- 14 – Museum open 10am – 2pm
- 21– Museum open 10am – 2pm
- 21 – Museum meeting 2pm
- 28 – Museum open 10am-2pm

March 2021

- 7 – Museum open 10am – 2pm
- 14 – Museum open 10am – 2pm
- 21– Exhibition workshop 9am
- 21 – Museum meeting 2pm
- 28– Museum open 10am-2pm

The Museum Committee would like to thank the Council of the City of Gold Coast for their continued support of the Museum through Whole of City Funding and rate reduction.